

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action dated 26 June 2008 has been received and noted. Each of the independent claims and some of the dependent claims have been amended to more clearly set forth the invention. Enclosed is an Affidavit from the inventor, which provides a detailed response to the June 26 Office Action.

The Examiner has contended that a collecting baffle or trap as shown in U.S. Patent 3,616,744 constitutes a filter. Each of the independent claims has been amended to recite that first filter and/or the second filter have a respective mesh size for capturing contaminants or for filtering contaminants from the air flow. This feature of Applicant's invention, as disclosed at page 5 commencing at line 21, clearly distinguishes over the baffle arrangement disclosed in U.S. Patent 3,616,744, and distinguishes a baffle from a filter, as discussed in the Affidavit. Dependent claim 5 has been amended to specify that the baffle depends from the top and intermediate front wall and rear wall for disrupting the air flow, as disclosed in the application. Dependent claim 12 has been amended, and recites that the first filter is inclined with respect to the path for the air flow, and substantially covers the path for the air flow.

Independent claims 17 and 19 have each been amended to recite that the first filter has a first mesh size. Claim 17 recites that this first filter filters contaminants from the air flow, and claim 19 recites that a first mesh size for the first filter is provided for capturing contaminants. Dependent claim 22 recites that the second filter has a second mesh size also for capturing contaminants. Dependent claims 23 and 24 have been amended in a similar manner. Claim 24 recites that the second filter has a relatively fine second mesh size, which is contrary to conventional technology.

Independent claim 46 has been amended to recite a first filter having a first mesh size for capturing contaminants, a second filter having a second mesh size for capturing contaminants. Again, Applicant submits that the combination set forth in this claim is not disclosed in the prior art, including U.S. Patent 3, 616,744, which utilizes baffles rather than filters having a selected mesh size.


Independent claim 51 now recites that the first filter has a first mesh size for capturing contaminants. Independent claim 55 recites that each of the first filter and the second filter have a respective mesh size for capturing contaminants.

Applicant submits that the pending claims are allowable over the recited art. The fact that Applicant may not have specifically traversed any particular assertion by the Office should not be construed as indicating Applicant's agreement therewith.

Applicant does not believe any fee is due in connection with this Amendment; however the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or overpayment of any required fee to Deposit Account No. 02-4345.

In view of the above, early allowance of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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